

REMARKS

Claim 1-7 are currently pending. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended herein. The Examiner's indication of allowed and allowable subject matter is acknowledged with appreciation.

The Office Action includes a rejection of Claims 1-2 and 5-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for lacking antecedent basis in connection with certain terms. Claim 1 has been amended in a manner that addresses the rejection, and withdrawal of the rejection against Claims 1 and 2 is respectfully requested. With regard to Claim 5, Applicant respectfully submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would readily understand the language "pressing material" to mean "material for pressing" and that Claim 5 is amply clear. For example, paragraphs 44 and 60 of the present application refer to the terminology "material for pressing." However, in an effort to expedite prosecution, Claim 5 has been amended to use the language "material for pressing," and withdrawal of the rejection against Claims 5 and 6 is respectfully requested. Of course, the claimed subject matter is not limited to the examples discussed at paragraphs 44 an 60. Applicant further submits that the changes to Claims 1 and 5 are not intended to narrow the scope of the effected claim elements.

In light of the above, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the application is respectfully requested. Should there be any questions in connection with this application, the Office is invited to contact the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: December 23, 2003
By: 

Douglas H. Pearson
Registration No. 47,851

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620